

# Montana Earthquake

## Hazard Reduction Program

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# October is... Earthquake Preparedness Month!!

**M**ontana has her faults. Earthquake faults that is!! Pristine mountains, alluring valleys...many of those geological qualities that take your breath away have developed over millions of years by movement within the earth's crust. Earthquakes are mystifying, common, and as unpredictable as they are powerful - not even seismologists fully understand the forces that set them in motion. Although we can't prevent or predict them, we can prepare for them....

## Are you ready?



...But before they do

# Reduce Your Risk!

Make it Safe!

## Do your part...

Identifying potential problems and minimizing their risk can make it safe!

Here's how:

- 19,000 chimneys collapsed in the February 2001 Seattle earthquake, causing damage & injuries. Reinforce or remove your brick chimney to prevent its failure.
- Secure your computers.
- If stacking items, stack them no higher than three feet.
- Bungee-cord all bookshelves.
- Anchor top-heavy furniture & appliances.
- Protect aquariums and other pet homes from sliding or overturning.
- Close-hook heavy and/or breakable objects suspended from the ceiling.
- Remove breakable and/or heavy objects from high places.
- Install latches on cupboards.



- Safely store flammables & chemicals in a secure area.
- Check the construction of your home. You may want to explore the possibility of reinforcing the structure.
- Secure furniture & other heavy items that have wheels or may slide.
- Windows may break or implode in an earthquake. Film, tape, and even curtains can help protect you.
- Secure heavy pictures & mirrors-do not put heavy objects over your bed.
- Keep a pair of shoes or sturdy slippers next to your bed. You may need them if broken glass or other debris is on your floor following an earthquake.
- Learn to shut off electricity, gas & water main valves, just in case.
- **Do you have earthquake insurance?** Look at your policy – you may need to talk with your agent about getting a rider to cover earthquake damage.



# Get Ready

Do your part...

Prepare to Survive!

Earthquakes are the most unpredictable of all disasters. When the earth shakes, you may be left without everyday conveniences: electricity, water, food, and medical attention. Have a plan for your family, practice what you will do and be prepared! Keep these items available at all times so you are prepared to survive!

## Preparedness Checklist...

- Flashlight
- Radio
- Extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Water
- Infant supplies
- Prescription medication
- Food (non-perishable & easy to prepare)
- Disposable dishes & silverware
- Bedding
- Toiletries



- Towels
- Cash
- Water purifiers
- Cookware
- Matches or Lighter
- Can opener
- Knife
- Ax, shovel, hammer & bucket
- Clothing
- Shoes
- Blankets
- Personal records



- Pet supplies
- Games & books
- Garbage bags
- Pens & paper
- Heavy-duty tape
- Soap & disinfectant
- Vitamins



\*Include what **you** need to survive comfortably for at least 72 hours!!

## Drop Cover &

**Remain Calm.**  
DROP down to the ground.



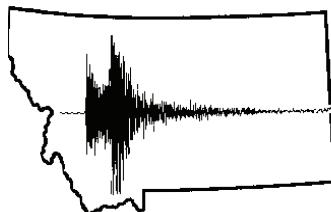
Take **COVER** under a sturdy desk, table, or other piece of furniture. If not possible, take **COVER** against an interior wall. It is important to **COVER** your head and neck with your arms. **Avoid danger spots:** windows, hanging objects, mirrors, tall objects, exterior walls and heavy items on wheels.

## Hold

If you take cover under a sturdy piece of furniture, **HOLD** onto it and be prepared to move with it.

**HOLD** the position until the ground stops shaking and it is safe to evacuate the building.  
**Expect Aftershocks!!!**

If you are outdoors, remain calm. Try to avoid buildings, unstable structures, overhead power lines, and other obvious dangers. Although scary, this is a safe place to be!



For more information, contact your local DES County Coordinator/Emergency Manager or Monique T. Lay, Earthquake Program Manager at (406) 841-3963

## Earthquakes Rock

...And when they do

## Drop Cover & Hold

## Know the Drill